

Public Comment by Adeline Wilcox

Census Scientific Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting

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From time to time, the Census 2000 Hialeah recount of Nonresponse Followup cases haunts this former Census Bureau employee.

In 2001, when I was a federal employee at the Census Bureau, Sally Obenski asked me to look at the Hialeah recount files. I found them where Sally directed me, on the Decennial DEC Alpha. In unstructured text, the files held seemingly endless names, many Spanish, and Hialeah street addresses. With my 2001 skill set, the files weren't machine readable. Had I encountered them later in my career, I might have attacked them with `regex`.

Sally said nothing about data documentation.

This took place after the OIG published their final audit report titled *Re-enumeration at Three Local Census Offices in Florida: Hialeah, Broward South, and Homestead*¹.

Soon afterward, I resigned because of harassment.

Did the Census Bureau use the Hialeah recount data?

Director Santos, is it too late to base a learning agenda on the Hialeah recount?

¹U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General. Bureau of the Census Re-enumeration at Three Local Census Offices in Florida: Hialeah, Broward South, and Homestead. Final Audit Report No. ESD-13215-O-0001/September 2000